

## OTHER NOTICES

**Bacon, Allan.** *Man's Next Billion Years.* New York, 1959. Exposition Press. Pp. 89. Price \$3.00.

THE TITLE of this book is not unlike that of the recent work by Sir Charles Darwin, but there—unfortunately—the similarity ends.

The author sees the perfect solution of the world's troubles to lie in the application of eugenics "when its technique has been perfected and when applied on a planetary scale." He is silent, however, on the question as to how this most desirable of all ends is to be achieved.

"What," he asks, "is to hinder man from applying his knowledge of the laws of genetics and heredity to his own species?" (p. 20) and the short answer is, of course, simply "Man himself."

Nevertheless it would be unfair not to emphasize that the author does not confine himself to 1 million years as does Sir Charles (and for a very good reason) but allows himself "to discuss the possibilities of a more distant future 10 million years—1 billion years hence" (p. 21), but we are left to speculate as to whether a billion means a million millions or only 1,000 millions—a point perhaps not considered of cardinal importance to the conclusions.

C. W. USHER

**Chesser, Eustace.** *Odd Man Out.* London, 1959. Gollancz. Pp. 192. Price 12s. 6d.

ALTHOUGH its subject is now in danger of being overworked, Dr. Chesser's latest publication can be welcomed as supplying a need which no book, so far as I know, has hitherto quite met. Comprehensively, yet simply and briefly, he deals with homosexuality as a personal and social problem for which responsibility must rest upon the community as a whole. It is still not generally recognized by the public at large that this handicap may be caused by wrong marital or parental relationships, and that the seeds of sexual disorientation may be sown in the child at a very early age; nor that the present inequalities in our law reflect emotional prejudices which are ingrained in our culture. It is also not sufficiently appreciated that homosexuality is a condition affecting women no less than men, and that the lesbian has her personal difficulties,

even though they are not complicated by the discriminations of the criminal law.

These, and many other matters relating to the personal and social aspects of homosexuality, are discussed by Dr. Chesser in a manner which cannot fail to impress the reader by its sanity, fairness, and concern for justice. No better book could be put into the hands of anyone who wishes to understand the issues raised by the Wolfenden Report, and the case for legal reform; no book is better calculated to excite the right kind of sympathy for those who are afflicted by this strange and much misunderstood handicap.

In a brief and obviously popular work, the absence of scholarly precision in matters of detail may perhaps be overlooked. But occasionally, and particularly in the section dealing with Judaism and the Christian Church, there are factual errors as well as questionable emphases; and it might have been useful to discuss, simply, the metaphysical and ontological implications of the Kinsey ratings and of such terms as "bisexuality." An index, and still more, a select bibliography, would have enhanced the value of a book which should dispel much of the ignorance and prejudice surrounding the subject of homosexuality.

SHERWIN BAILEY

**Goldberg, E. M., et al.** (Editors). *The Boundaries of Casework.* A Report on a Residential Refresher Course held by the Association of Psychiatric Social Workers, Leicester, 1956. A.P.S.W. (1 Park Crescent, London, W.1.) Pp. 103. Price 7s. 6d.

THE FIRST EDITION of this book, which was reviewed in the April 1958 issue of the REVIEW (50, 64) was exhausted within a year of publication.

The Association of Psychiatric Social Workers announce that a second edition is now available, due to the generous support of the Noel Buxton Trust.

**Karpman Benjamin** (Editor), *Symposia on Child and Juvenile Delinquency.* Washington D.C., 1959. Psychodynamics Monograph Series. Pp. 364. Price \$10.

THIS VOLUME gathers together the addresses given to five round table conferences by fifteen

American psychiatrists, leaders in their particular fields, and the discussions contributed by psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers which followed. The Conferences were organized and presided over by Dr. Karpman, who occupies a prominent position in criminology through his studies of the psychopathology of delinquency. The purpose of the meetings was to throw light on adult criminal behaviour by studying the influence of early development on subsequent social adjustment.

The first conference deals with "The Psychopathic Delinquent Child," the second with "Psychopathic Behavior," the third is entitled "A Differential Study of Psychopathic Behavior in Infants and Children," the fourth "Psychodynamics of Child Delinquency" and the fifth is concerned with "Basic Emotional Factors in Delinquency." Dr. Karpman contributes a final synthesis and summary of the proceedings covering such topics as definition, etiology, typology and treatment. Interspersed in the text are numerous crude illustrations showing children in typical situations of delinquency. The book presents clinical opinions, case histories and other products of general experience

rather than findings derived from planned research. The majority of the contributors are influenced in their thinking by psychoanalytic theory.

HILDA LEWIS

**Smith, D. Robertson and Davidson, William M.** (Editors). *Symposium on Nuclear Sex*. London, 1958. Heinemann Medical Books. Pp. xvii + 188. Price 21s.

THIS BOOK reports a Symposium held in 1957 at Kings College Hospital Medical School on the occasion of Professor Murray Barr's visit to this country. Professor Barr was responsible for the discovery that individuals could be sexed by determining the frequency with which a spot of chromatin was present on the boundary of the nuclear membrane of many forms of cells.

Since this symposium took place, the application of the new techniques of examining chromosomes, described here by Dr. Ford, to the odd cases where the nuclear sex did not correspond to the phenotypic sex, has led to the demonstration of "girls" with genotype XO and "boys" with genotype XXY. This book gives the background to these important new developments.

C. O. C.